



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

METHODIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO, ILLINOIS, CELEBRATES THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS EXISTENCE AS A CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Buffalo, on February 5, 1919, began the celebration of its semi-centennial as a church. A program of exercises extending over several days was arranged and carried out under the direction of the pastor, Rev. W. B. Theobald.

On Monday evening a sermon was preached in the church by Rev. C. R. Booth, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church of Decatur. Sermons and addresses were delivered throughout the week by Rev. A. A. Luce, of Springfield, and Rev. Robert F. McDaniel of Mattoon.

The celebration of the golden anniversary of the church reached a climax in the banquet tendered the members of the church and their friends on Friday evening. The toastmaster was the superintendent of the Springfield District of the Methodist Church, Rev. Eugene M. Antrim. The celebration ended with the services on Sunday, February 9. The sermon on Sunday morning was delivered by the pastor of the church, Mr. Theobald, and the closing sermon, Sunday evening, was preached by Rev. Mr. Antrim.

The committee in charge of the celebration published attractive souvenir booklet containing the program of the anniversary services, the pictures of the presiding officer of the Illinois conference, Bishop Thomas Nicholson of Chicago; the district superintendent, Rev. Eugene M. Antrim of Springfield; the pastor, Rev. W. B. Theobald of Buffalo, the old church and parsonage, the present church and the present parsonage. The booklet also contains the church directory, the list of pastors since the organization of the church, the honor roll, the church roll, a brief historical sketch and anniversary notes.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The historical sketch tells especially of the beginnings of the church organization and is of more than ordinary interest. It is as follows:

"Prior to the year 1868 the church society in Buffalo belonged to what was known as the Dawson Circuit and our congregation, composed of members of various denominations, held its services in the old school building, the pastor residing in Dawson. In the fall of 1868 Buffalo was connected with Mechanicsburg, in the Decatur district, and R. N. Davies became the pastor of the circuit and held services every alternate Sunday in the school house.

"Early in the fall of the same year a man was seen driving south out of our village and when asked where he was going replied: 'I am going to the river for a load of sand to be used in the building of a Methodist church here.' It is further said that the amount of money on hand at that time for the purpose named was fifty cents. With such dauntless faith and wide vision in the month of September of that year, Isom Enlow began hauling sand and other material for the church to be built.

"The lots upon which the first building stood so long and on which the present building is located were deeded by Isom Enlow and Emaline Enlow, his wife, on Oct. 7, 1868, to the following trustees: Isom Enlow, William Munce, W. G. Jack, George McDaniel, James H. Dawson, William Shrimpton and Jonathan Putnam. Of this number William Munce is still living. Actual work began in October and the building committee were Jonathan Putnam, Isom Enlow and William Munce. The contractor was Samuel Hays, and connected with him in the work were Ezra Gamble and Michael Burke, all three of whom are passed to their eternal reward.

"The work was completed in January and the building was dedicated in January, 1869, by Rev. Hiram Buck, presiding elder of the Decatur district. Pastor Davies arranged for the pulpit to be filled the intervening Sunday by a man by the name of Cochran of Decatur. Here began the first regular preaching service ever held in Buffalo.

"Such is the short account of the erection of the first Methodist Church building and from the reading one would think it well and quickly done. And while we would not say a single word that would, in any manner, detract from the credit of any one who in any manner assisted in the erection of the first building or contributed any money toward that enterprise, we are pleased at this time to give special honor and reverence to the memory of that man of sturdy character, of strong faith, of indomitable resolution and of undaunted determination Isom Enlow, for his tireless efforts in helping to plan and carry forward to such successful termination the building of the first Methodist Church in our village. He gave his time and money and labor freely and cheerfully putting his whole heart and soul into the work from its inception to its completion. Nor would we forget his wife, Mrs. Emaline Enlow, who proved herself a real and worthy helpmate, sharing with him in this work the anxiety, the toil, the sacrifice, and in the end the joy of ultimate success. They have long since gone to their reward but they are still remembered here and shall continue to be remembered as long as Methodism remains here for theirs was the effort that brought success to that enterprise.

"In 1870 Buffalo was again united with Dawson and the charge was known as "Buffalo and Dawson," and G. D. Furber became pastor. In 1875 Buffalo and Dawson separated and H. M. Haff was the first pastor of the new station work. It has ever since remained a station.

"Since that time Buffalo Church has grown steadily forward and while small in numbers and probably will ever remain so, its influence was felt far beyond the community. We are thankful to God for this splendid influence and history of these fifty years. Fifty golden years of service! May the next fifty years be as fruitful and glorious!"

The old church spoken of in the historical sketch served the congregation as a place of worship until 1909, when it was moved away, and on the site was erected a modern brick structure, well suited to the uses of a live and up-to-date church organization. This church was dedicated entirely free of debt and with a surplus in the church treasury. It is the pride of the membership of the church today that there was not one

penny of shrinkage in the subscription made for the building enterprise.

A new parsonage, one of the most comfortable homes for a pastor and his family in central Illinois, was erected in 1915 at a cost of \$3,200. This is a well arranged house with all the conveniences and comforts usually found in the best homes in a city, and contains nine rooms and a bath. It has a fine hot water heating plant.

One of the most active and efficient women's organizations connected with any church is the Ladies' Aid Society of the Buffalo Methodist church. It is always doing some special good in church or civic betterment. One of the latest accomplishments of this society was the raising of the last \$1,000 indebtedness on the parsonage.

Some interesting items selected from the anniversary notes published in the souvenir booklet are as follows:

One member of the first board of trustees is still living, William Munce, of Mt. Pulaski.

"Two members, so far as we have been able to discover, who belonged to the first church, are still living, Mrs. Elizabeth McDaniel and Mrs. Marietta Stoker.

"Thirteen persons from our church roll etered the service of the nation in her hour of need. They have so far escaped injury and expect to come back to us."